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Logan Gage  
*University of Mississippi*

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## Honors Accounting Case Study

By  
Logan Gage

A thesis submitted to the faculty of The University of Mississippi in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College.

Oxford, Mississippi  
May 2021

Approved by

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Advisor: Dr. Vicki Dickinson

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Reader: Dr. Mark Wilder

## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this thesis is to analyze and discuss a broad range of accounting topics. This paper was formed over the yearlong class in the Honors Accountancy Independent Study class taught by Dr. Victoria Dickinson. It is divided into case studies that cover different accounting themed topics. These case studies gave me an advanced knowledge of financial accounting beyond the traditional assignments my other classes assigned me. My understanding of the real-world accounting profession was able to be improved because of this class and these case studies.

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## City Selection Case

Comparison of Jackson, Mississippi and Chattanooga, Tennessee:

### City Selection Case Study

Logan Gage

Dr. V. Dickinson

University of Mississippi

Sept. 25, 2019

Logan Gage

Dr. Dickinson

ACCY 420

9/18/19

### City Selection Case (Jackson, MS and Chattanooga, TN)

Introduction: The City Selection Case is an assignment where students pick two cities that they are considering for their accounting internship and comparing and contrasting some of the key factors those cities offer young working adults. The case presents a series of questions about important aspects of the cities, and we describe how that city is in regards to that question. For instance, we need to describe the cities size, geography, education abilities, recreational/entertainment opportunities, availability, cost and size of apartments that we would live in, and much more. The two cities I chose to study were Jackson, Mississippi and Chattanooga, Tennessee. I grew up right outside of Jackson in Ridgeland, Mississippi, and am very aware of what living in the city would be like. The comfort of being near home is one of the main reasons I chose this city. With all of my family in Jackson, certain aspects of life would be easier there. Chattanooga is a city I have loved visiting as a teenager. I went to a summer camp less than an hour away from the city growing up and have spent a lot of time in the downtown area. I like how the city is similar in size to Jackson, but offers a little bit more in terms of social and recreational opportunities. Through this case, I have learned that there is a lot to look at when it comes to where you live, and when making my budget there was a lot I had to consider. For instance, living in Jackson would allow me to travel to Oxford, Mississippi a lot, which would cost a little bit in terms of gas, dining, and sports tickets. I would probably not travel to Jackson as much if I lived in Chattanooga, but the cost of those trips would be more

expensive. I am looking forward to hearing about the different internship opportunities available to me in both of these cities as I continue my junior year. Attached below are the results of me looking into all of the questions the case asked us about each city.

1. Census Reporter reports the Jackson Metropolitan population to be 578,794. The Chattanooga metro area is reported to have a population of 554,876. The cities have nearly identical populations with Jackson being slightly larger. One interesting number I saw is that, even though the Chattanooga metro area is around 24,000 people smaller than Jackson's, the comparison of just the actual cities says Chattanooga has 12,000 more citizens (167,250 people in Jackson and 179,130 in Chattanooga). Growing up in Jackson, I liked the size of the city and would feel comfortable moving somewhere else of similar size. In zero traffic, it would take me twenty minutes to get from my house to my high school, and traffic was never too bad. Both cities are big enough to have a lot going on, but do not have the cons that large cities have with being too big.
2. The climate of Jackson consists of lots of heat and humidity. The winter never gets too cold and snow is very rare. Spring and fall can be enjoyable when the temperature stays cool due to the summer just ending/almost beginning. Chattanooga is similar in climate, with the winters on average being slightly colder. Having grown up in Jackson, I am very comfortable with the climate both the cities would offer. The main challenges these cities present is the brutal heat you can have in the summer, with both cities reaching triple digit temperatures every now and then.
3. There is not much to say about the geography of Jackson. The town is flat and there are no major geographical features to the city. The Pearl River marks the Eastern border of Jackson, and downtown does not offer as much as other cities (especially when compared to

Chattanooga). Chattanooga has many more geographical features that make the city unique. The most prominent natural features in and around Chattanooga are the surrounding mountains. The city is nestled between the southwestern Ridge-and-valley Appalachians and the foot of Walden's Ridge; the river separates the ridge from the western side of downtown. Several miles east, the city is bisected by Missionary Ridge. The Tennessee River runs through the western half of the city, and provides downtown with nice scenery and the Walnut Street Bridge stretching across the river. This bridge is the longest pedestrian bridge in the world.



Pictured above is Downtown Jackson



Pictured above is the Walnut Street Bridge in downtown Chattanooga



4.

**Your Income Taxes Breakdown**

Tax Type	Marginal Tax Rate	Effective Tax Rate	2018 Taxes*
Federal	22.00%	9.82%	\$5,400
FICA	7.65%	7.65%	\$4,208
State	5.00%	3.97%	\$2,185
Local	0.00%	0.00%	\$0
<b>Total Income Taxes</b>		<b>21.44%</b>	<b>\$11,792</b>
Income After Taxes			\$43,208
Retirement Contributions			\$0
<b>Take-Home Pay</b>			<b>\$43,208</b>

\* These are the taxes owed for the 2018 - 2019 filing season.

Pictured above is my income tax breakdown for living in Jackson. The state income tax is 5%. A home valued at \$150,000 in Madison County (the county I would ideally want to live in the Jackson area) would have property tax of \$990. Sales tax in Mississippi is 7%.

**Your Income Taxes Breakdown**

Tax Type	Marginal Tax Rate	Effective Tax Rate	2018 Taxes*
Federal	22.00%	9.82%	\$5,400
FICA	7.65%	7.65%	\$4,208
State	0.00%	0.00%	\$0
Local	0.00%	0.00%	\$0
<b>Total Income Taxes</b>		<b>17.47%</b>	<b>\$9,607</b>
Income After Taxes			\$45,393
Retirement Contributions			\$0
<b>Take-Home Pay</b>			<b>\$45,393</b>

\* These are the taxes owed for the 2018 - 2019 filing season.

Chattanooga does not have a state income tax, so I would be saving part of my income by living here. My take-home pay increases by a little over \$2,000. An article by Nashville Business Journal describes property taxes in Tennessee as such: "The effective real-estate tax rate in Tennessee is 0.75 percent. For a home priced at the median home value nationwide (\$176,000),

such a homeowner in Tennessee pays \$1,314 in annual taxes. For the median home value in Tennessee (\$139,900), a homeowner pays \$1,046 in annual taxes. The state of Tennessee has a state sales tax of 7%, while Hamilton County (where Chattanooga is located) has its own sales tax of 2.25%.

Personally, I like how Tennessee does not have a state income tax. Even though sales tax is increased, based on the type of spender I think I am (and hope to be in the future) I would lose more money to taxes in a state with a state income tax like Mississippi. Overall, neither state's taxes are bad enough to make me view negatively of either city, but Tennessee would put me in a better scenario.

5. Jackson is the intersection of I-55 and I-20, making travel easy if you are leaving the city. The city has the Jackson-International Airport, where you can get a flight to anywhere in Atlanta before heading to your actual destination. Jackson is a driving city, and there would not be many scenarios where you are walking or taking buses across the city (Unless something simple like walking from the office to lunch). Uber and Lyft are available in Jackson, but they are not very prominent. A citywide bus system, JATRAM, does exist in Jackson, but it is currently is not utilized by many people due to the unsafe conditions for riders and drivers.

Downtown Chattanooga has a more established transportation system. The free CARTA Downtown Electric Shuttle runs across downtown to the northern part of the city. The improved transportation system Chattanooga has helped make its downtown lively and enjoyable. In December 2009, Chattanooga was ranked 8th out of America's 100 largest metro areas for the best "Bang For Your Buck" city, according to Forbes magazine, which measured overall affordability, housing rates, and more.

6. The large industries/companies in the Jackson area are not very big. The state government offers the most jobs out of anyone in the state, but there are a few companies that still offer a large number of jobs. The University of Mississippi Medical Center, Nissan, Baptist Health Systems, AT&T, and Trustmark bank are some of the largest companies in the Jackson area. Mississippi's economy ranks last in the country, so being able to work with a large and respected firm while possible, would be rare due to the lack of availability.

Chattanooga has more opportunities for working with large companies due to Tennessee having a larger state economy and the city itself having more job opportunities. Similar to Jackson, some of the largest employers are hospitals, schools, and state/city government work. Besides this, large companies include: The Tennessee Valley Authority, McKee Food Corps., Unum (insurance), Volkswagen, and Roper Corp. (manufacturing). With both of these cities being around the same size, I believe the size of the work I would be doing would be similar. I would like the opportunity to work for a company that was not gigantic that requires a big team so that I could have a bigger role in my work.

7) According to US News, Mississippi ranks last in the country in Public Health Care Access and Public Health Care Quality. They also have Mississippi ranked 48th in Public Health. Over the years, Mississippi is proud to have moved from 50th to 49th in state obesity rates (37.1%). From the same rankings, Tennessee is ranked 43rd in healthcare (38th in Public Health Care Access, 31st Public Health Care Quality, and 43rd in Public Health).

Madison County has an A rated public school district according to Niche.com. Madison is the county 15 minutes north of downtown Jackson. Jackson public schools earned a D+ rating from the same website. If in Jackson, my children would either attend Madison public schools or Jackson private schools.

U. S. News and World Reports ranked the state of Tennessee 9th in the nation in graduation rate in 2018. Hamilton County public school system is ranked 36th out of the 100 counties by BackgroundChecks.org. Niche.com rated them 54th with a B rating. Private schools in Chattanooga are excellent with two of Tennessee's top private schools, McCallie and Baylor, located there. There are a total of nine private schools in Chattanooga which are ranked in the top 100 schools in the state. If in Chattanooga, I would probably send my children to private schools.

8) Crime in the city of Jackson is one of the highest in the nation with a homicide rate for 2018 at 50.3 per 100,000 people, meaning it's also one of the highest in the nation, worse than New Orleans, Memphis, and even Detroit. There are a few areas in Jackson in the North East section of the city that are considered safer than the others. Most of these neighborhoods employ private security which patrols 24/7 in golf carts. However, I would not live in the city of Jackson, I would live in Madison county where crime is ranked below average, according to Bestplaces.com, with most crime being property crime, not violent crime.

Crime in the city of Chattanooga, especially the downtown area, also has a high crime rate. The overall crime rate in Chattanooga is 157% higher than the national average. For every 100,000 people, there are 19.32 daily crimes that occur in Chattanooga. Chattanooga is safer than 1% of the cities in the United States. In Chattanooga you have a 1 in 15 chance of becoming a victim of any crime. The downtown area is relatively safe during the day, but the crime increases at night.

There are several neighborhoods farther away from the downtown area that are very safe, which is where I would live.

9) I expect to rent an apartment or a house with a roommate, paying between \$750 - \$950 per month for the first three years. In the Jackson Metro area there are few safe rental options, so I would look for a rental in a suburb such as Flowood which is about a 20-30 minute commute to downtown. Carlton Park Apartment Homes offers 2 bedroom / 2 bathroom apartments with 1150 square feet for \$1350 per month. Attached parking garages, gated access, clubhouse, pool, lake, business center, and a sun deck are some of the amenities provided.





If I chose Chattanooga, I would also have a roommate and live in an apartment, but I think it would be nice to live in the downtown area. Even though there is a lot of crime, I would like to have the opportunity to experience a different lifestyle by living within walking distance to restaurants, bars, cultural events, music, shopping, and entertainment. Riverset Apartments offer a 2 bedroom / 2 bathroom apartment with 900 square feet for \$1659 per month with dedicated parking and washer and dryer hook ups.



# RIVERSET

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10) In Jackson transportation would be by car with a commute time of 20-30 minutes to downtown, depending on the time of day. Travel time to restaurants would be 5 - 20 minutes depending on where I was going to eat. In Chattanooga, I would be able to walk to over 30 restaurants and could drive to the downtown business area in 5 - 15 minutes.

11) In Jackson, local grocery stores are located within 5 minutes of anywhere I would live. In Chattanooga, if I lived downtown, I would have to drive about 20 - 25 minutes to a grocery store.

12) Both apartment complexes have in unit washer and dryer hookups.



13) In whatever city I live, I will be involved in a local church. Additionally, I am interested in Boys and Girls Club of America, Children's Museum Fundraising, and Children's Hospital Fundraising. I have worked with youth as a camp counselor for several years and hope to build upon my passion for helping children as an adult. Both cities have opportunities for involvement in this area.

14) Activities in the Jackson area that I would participate in include attending MS Braves games, riding the Ridgeland Bike Trail, playing tennis and golf at local clubs, attending the MS Food and Wine Festival, and other music festivals and concerts. In the Chattanooga area I would attend Chattanooga Lookouts baseball games, play tennis and golf, hike the many nearby hiking trails, take advantage of nearby rafting locations, attend local concerts and festivals and have an easy drive to Atlanta or Nashville for concerts and professional athletic events.

15) Since Ridgeland is my hometown, working in Jackson would be living in my hometown. My entire family lives there - parents, grandparents, great grandparents, cousins, aunts, uncles, everybody. My family is very close and we enjoy spending time together. This is the major reason I am considering working in Jackson.

Chattanooga is a 5 ½ hour drive to my hometown with the only option of flights being 4 hours, costing \$200 and going through Atlanta. I would not incur many costs by visiting home because I would stay with my parents.

16)

Monthly Budget	Jackson	Chattanooga
Monthly Income	5,000	5,000
Income after Income Tax	3,873	4,076
Rent (Assuming I have a roommate)	675	830
Utilities	150	150
Groceries	200	200
Dining, Entertainment	300	400
Insurance (auto, renters)	75	75
Cell phone bill	100	100
Ole Miss season tickets (football, baseball)	450	250 (only football)
Savings	500	500
Trips/vacations saving/spending	200	200
Car maintenance	50	50
Tithe	50	50
Tv bill	50	50
Gas	40	130 (potential travel back home)
Total Costs	2,840	2,845
Discretionary Income	1,033	1,231

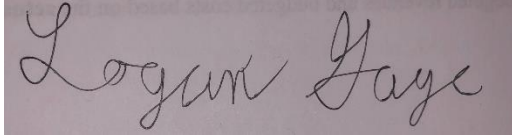
17) Since Jackson and Chattanooga are fairly similar in size, crime, and education opportunities for my children, I have to make a decision based on whether or not I want to live somewhere with more entertainment and activities, or if I want to live near my family. Mississippi is often classified as the “worst” state to live in the country and Jackson is often classified as the “worst” city within the state. I love my state and very much believe in

trying to make it better. Maybe by living there I can do my part to make it a better place as I get older.

Tennessee has so many positives for a southern guy who loves the outdoors and attending sporting events. Chattanooga is a nice place to live and a nice place to raise a family, but it would mean raising my immediate family apart from the people I love the most. I'm not sure that hiking, concerts, games and music are enough to make me want to separate myself from them. Also, I know that connections and friendships are very important in the business world. Considering this, I have a much bigger advantage in Mississippi than I do in Tennessee. Therefore, unless I can convince all of my family and friends to move to Chattanooga, I think Jackson is the place for me.

Honor Code: "On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given, received, nor witnessed any unauthorized help on this case study.

Signature:

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Logan Gage".

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# Case Study: YouTube Channel Tax

By: Payton Argabright, Meg Case, and Logan Gage

This case has taught us to have a quizzical point of view and to reevaluate small details to arise at a conclusion that is within our best efforts to protect Emma. Through the additional information our research has provided, our thought process has been heightened and our knowledge of the tax qualifications and regulations increased. This case is especially important as we reach graduation and generate an individualistic income, we understand the decisions and amounts we create will have regulations and boundaries. It is imperative that we recognize the additional responsibilities to accurately abide by the laws. Several times we think that there are more financial liberties, these opportunities are linked to more considerations. This case made us all aware of the new rules to tax code that were passed in 2018, and how tax brackets and deduction values changed. It was an interesting case to evaluate, and we were able to see the different types of ways something that seems simple like YouTube revenue can be taxed in different ways (such as self-made income taxes, unearned taxes, etc.). The different rules regarding what defines a tax evasion penalty was also informative to learn. We had heard of plenty of examples of employers or individuals being charged of tax evasion could affect a company, but looking into a case where we could determine who was at fault was interesting. As the three of us either continue to take our tax classes or take them soon next year, it will be good to learn what future practices are best to know in regards to how taxes should be filed under all types of scenarios bringing income to people.

Hi (Partner/Coworkers)

On this day, February 12, 2020, we found that Emma, the daughter of our CEO Mark Denver, has been creating an income of \$10,000 to \$15,000 per month from a personal YouTube page that has been monetized through YouTube's AdSense program with non-copyrighted songs she lip syncs. The popularity of the page has caused the advertisements of her

videos to bring in this income. This results in an earned income of \$120,000 to \$180,000 each year ended period and for the past four years \$480,000 to \$720,000. Emma has taken this amount and invested it in an interest bearing account without paying the appropriate taxes on the earned income. Being at such a young age (13), it is in the best interest of the individual, the family, and the business to find a means to protect Emma at this time. I will be reaching out to Mark Denver today explaining this addition to his tax returns, and will be suggesting the proper steps to report this income properly. I will also give suggestions for ideas she could do with her channel to potentially lower the taxable income that comes from her channel. We do strongly vouch that Emma and her parents were without knowledge (Tax Evasion and Defenses) of the act and should not face persecution under the law. The family should pay in full the amount that is owed to the US Government with a penalty and potential for a payment plan.

An additional suggestion to consider would include research and potentially implementation of forming a company to protect Emma and to get out of self-employment.

Your Trusted (Accountants/Coworkers),  
Payton Argabright, Meg Case, and Logan Gage



Hi CEO Mark Denver,

We appreciate the opportunity to work on your personal tax return for the fifth year. We believe there is reason for concern addressing the measure of tax avoidance from Emma's Youtube earned income. Due to the lack of knowledge surrounding the missed tax payments, there will not be a reason for legal retention from the US Government. These payments will need to be paid over the course of a consultation with the IRS to fully avoid further penalties. There could be potential for a penalty required in addition to the missing amount. We are working on accounting for the exact payments that will be necessary due to tax bracket rates decreasing in 2018 as well as standard deduction values increasing and changes in self-employment taxes. If it is true that Emma is making upwards of 15,000 per month, there could be over a quarter of a million dollars earning interest in her personal accounts that are not being taxed for. Her self-made income as well as the calculated 55,000 dollars of interest her account has accrued would need to begin to be filed. We would like to further communicate with you to fully disburse this issue. As long as Emma continues to make over \$12,000 each year, Emma will need to file self-employment taxes (IRS Tax Form). Emma's self-employment tax is \$20,000 and you will be at liberty to deduct half of this amount and owe an estimable \$10,000. There is no additional Medicare tax because Emma is under the amount.

Moving forward, one thing to consider would be to form a company instead of having your daughter subject to self-employment considerations. Not only would this relieve the self-employment taxes, but it would allow certain business deductions for income taxes as well as removing any personal liability.

Your Trusted (Accountants/Coworkers),

Payton Argabright, Meg Case, and Logan Gage

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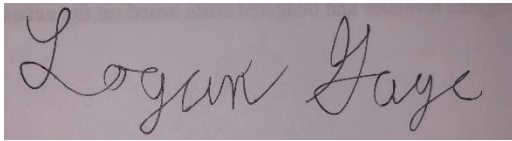
“On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given, received, nor witnessed any unauthorized help on this Case Study.”

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Payton Argabright". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'P' and 'A'.

Signature: Payton Argabright

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Margaret Elizabeth Wren Case". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'M' and 'W'.

Signature: Margaret Elizabeth Wren Case

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Logan Gage". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'L' and 'G'.

Signature: Logan Gage

Brexit Documentary Case

Why Brexit would save the economy of Great Britain

Brexit Documentary Case

Logan Gage

Dr. V. Dickinson

University of Mississippi

Oct. 9, 2019

Logan Gage

Dr. Dickinson

ACCY 420

Oct. 9, 2019

*Brexit: The Movie* gives factual and logical reasons for Great Britain to leave the EU

This case study was very enjoyable to look into and write about. I find economic and political drama very interesting, and have been keeping track of Brexit for several years. I am very glad we got to watch this documentary in class, it helped me learn so much more than I knew about the scenario and made many aspects of the EU clearer to me. I tried my best to summarize the entire documentary and what I found to be important in this case study, as well as occasionally give my opinion on some of the points made in the film. I am very curious to see what happens on October 31st, and even though I know that whatever decision is made will hurt some people or businesses, I am very curious to see where the future of the British economy lies after this “wake-up call” of a political firestorm in Europe. As I wrote about what I saw in the documentary, I was able to remember it much better than my initial memory of leaving the class. I have already discussed the issue of Brexit with some friends and family this past week since seeing this documentary, and it has been great talking to others and hearing their opinions on the issue. All in all, I would like to see how Great Britain’s economy would grow if they left the EU, but I understand the negatives that could come with that shaking up all of Europe and even the world. I really enjoyed this case, and below is my summary of the documentary we watched in class, and what is happening at the end of this month.

The movie begins with a very serious introduction of the filmmaker’s general stance on Great Britain leaving the European Union (EU). From the start I knew what I was in for the next

hour and eleven minutes; a serious explanation to the viewer on the problems of the EU. Within hearing a few clips of guests in this documentary, I have heard a wide variety of reasons as to why the people of Great Britain have been treated poorly by the EU. You are introduced to the control the EU has, and how Britains claim their companies are being dictated. Politicians are stating that leaving the EU would show that their country actually cared about instilling democratic rights. Even normal citizens are explaining that it democracy that needs to be valued, and throughout this movie, it will be explained how the EU is ruining all of these things for the Britons.

After this serious introduction, the documentary jumps into an explanation of how the EU works. The EU imposes laws on 28 countries, and there are seven councils that makeup these countries. However, as the layout of the EU is continually explained, it is proven that the composition of the EU is very confusing due to countless numbers of presidents, commissions, board, and other branches of the EU that supposedly all oversee these countries. Normal citizens are interviewed on the street and are not even able to recognize some of the top EU officials, which to me seemed shocking considering these officials have control of half a continent. With the structure being so complex and confusing, bad leadership could simply hide behind the mess that is the structure of the Union and never be known by the public.

The EU parliament exists, but they have very little power. Real power only lies with EU executive officials who get to meet in secret and have the privilege of their debates being classified to the public. If I was a citizen in the EU I would feel like my laws and regulations were being unfairly constructed since so much decision making has little to no transparency. The EU structure seems to lack any form of constituent representation because these officials could make whatever decisions they want and face no backlash for it. An

interesting point made in the documentary here is that directly contradicts the Magna Carta, the documentation declaring what that the right to tax the people is up to the people. To summarize this point, EU officials were not voted by Britons, Britons have no control in their laws, and the EU as a whole is anti-democracy.

The pay that comes with working for the EU is unfairly high. Ten thousand EU politicians are paid more than David Cameron (Great Britain Prime Minister). The high amount of taxes European citizens are paying end up not going to the public, but more so people only related to the public and working for the government. This keeps the EU employees very happy, so of course no one on the inside of the operation would ever want to leave, abolish, or change the structure of EU rules.

EU regulations have directly affected Great Britain's economy. The fishing industry is highlighted in the film as we were introduced to how EU quotas on the fishing market drastically lowered market activity. The EU was even paying British fishermen to leave the industry, claiming that they needed their economy to die down so other countries could instead come in and enter industry. Personally I believe other countries or industries should be able to enter this fishing market, but without all of these rules and regulations on the trade of it all. An open market would result in the best fisherman surviving, and competition would help the economy thrive.

A major part of EU's control over European citizens is the hefty number of regulations that affect just about every product you buy and every service you use. Since the end of World War I, Europe has seen the negative effect that overregulation can have on a country's economy. Even though Great Britain won The Great War and Germany lost, Germany's economy was able to thrive and reach record success compared to Great Britain's due to

Germany having very little government regulations and Great Britain having a lot. An economy with too many regulations makes it difficult for competition to emerge, and you were stuck with big businesses with shoddy practices and work ethics receiving the benefits. As a result, the everyday Britain was struggling in the 1940's and 1950's while Germans were thriving. This practice of overregulation has been carried out again by the EU today and it appears that they have learned nothing from this example. The same leaders that caused the downfall of Britain were planning the EU and causing this over-regulation to occur.

At this point the documentary continues to give examples of the machine that is the EU and how they are able to take so much of citizens money. The EU has sold the idea to everyday citizens that it is "sophisticated" to be a part of the EU, and that everything high class and fancy in European countries is thanks to the EU. While it is true that the EU has spent a lot of their money on projects and plans to improve the culture of the area, the economy in general is struggling. There is no one big enough to argue against the EU and their poor economy. Big businesses are thriving in this model, no one new can arise as a threat. The documentary makes an interesting point here about how it seems like these big businesses have life so easy for them and they can get by with poor performance, why don't other outside companies try to come in and take a hold of the market? This is when the documentary explains the excessive trade regulations that are taking place.

If a company in the EU is feeling threatened by a foreign company that has better products at lower prices, the EU can go to several options to make sure that this foreign company does not take away too much of their market control. They keep this market control through the use of quotas, tariffs, and regulations. These increase the price it would cost for foreign companies to sell their products in the EU, and in the long run it deters them from exporting to



the EU at all, allowing the poorly run EU companies to keep their control. The documentary here pitches for the concept of free trade and how if all of these regulations were dropped citizens lives would be much better because of their new access to better products at better prices. The EU has even done things like creating artificial food shortages by dumping excess food to rot so that prices can stay at a certain high price.

So how would Great Britain survive if they left the protection of the EU? Would they be able to stand on their own? Well, the documentary decides to look at another country that never joined the EU to see how their economy was, Switzerland. Switzerland has been thriving economically, and many Swiss economists claim that a major part of their success is simply by not being a part of the EU. Switzerland is able to engage in free trade with tons of other countries, resulting in most of Europe's largest companies not even being EU owned but Swiss owned. Swiss politicians are elected by their people, forcing their leaders to be directly making decisions for the good of the people. If you are not for your constituents in Switzerland, you will quickly be voted out of office. This example proves the point that leaving the EU would be a step in the right direction to obtaining economic growth and democratic rights.

One of the last major points of the documentary is trade deals. It explained how trade deals are not necessary for a country to have a strong economy, and institutions such as the World Trade Organization are working on breaking barriers created by trade deals and other similar deals to make importing and exporting more fair and competitive for the world. The trade deals the EU even possesses are not strong in the first place, and Great Britain could make better ones if they tried.

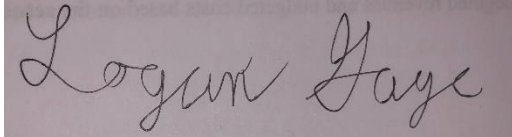
In the end, the small benefits of being in the EU are considered "trinkets" that the EU flashes around to convince citizens that their life would be easier if they were a part of their huge

machine. Benefits such as cheaper phone service, and other small benefits are not fooling many British economists, and they are ready to make the vote to leave the European Union and initiate Brexit.

At the end of this month (October 31, 2019) is the day of the Brexit deadline. The EU pushed this official day that Great Britain would be leaving back earlier this year, and they are hoping that Great Britain will have changed their stance to stay a member of the EU. Many British officials such as Theresa May would have wanted to have left earlier than this date, but it is what ended up being decided. It will be a huge day for the world as we see if Great Britain will finally make the move many have wanted (but others dreaded) for some time. There are some benefits to being in the EU, and the EU will most likely be weaker with having Great Britain in their union, but I believe this is the best move for the country's economy. Leaving the EU would cause catastrophe to banks, businesses, and maybe even the countries treasury. Service industries would be affected in Great Britain if they could no longer have as strong work ties with other EU countries. There are potential negatives that could result of Brexit occurring. Short term the economy might be hit hard, but I agreed with what a lot of this documentary said and believe the best move would be to leave, the EU might be able to learn how to improve themselves from it too.

Honor Code: "On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given, received, nor witnessed any unauthorized help on this case study.

Signature:

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Logan Gage".

International Paper Company Case 1

An analysis of International Paper's 10-K Report  
Company Case

Logan Gage

Dr. V. Dickinson

University of Mississippi

Oct. 30, 2019

Logan Gage

Dr. Dickinson

ACCY 420

Oct. 30, 2019

### A Look Into the Accounting of a Fortune 150 Company, International Paper

In this case our team downloaded the most recent annual report (10-K) of one of the largest companies in the Southeast, International Paper (IP). IP is a manufacturer of paper products headquartered in Memphis, TN and has a revenue of almost 22 billion dollars. Getting to look at so much about how the company operated, ran, and reported their financial information was very interesting to write about. Our team did research together to answer several questions about the 10-K in the study below, where a large amount of important information about the operations of IP are described. It was informative to look analyze the company's different financial statements such as their balance sheet. Many of the account titles were very familiar, but it was interesting to see a few accounts important enough to their business to be on its own in the balance sheet. The many different ways the company earns revenue was also informative. I now know that if I want to learn more about a company I can use the website we used to find the 10-K to be able to read up on many companies. I enjoyed working on this case because I know in the future if I am asked to do research about a company I will have now had hands-on experience with really going in-depth with a company's financial information. One particular section of the 10-K that I enjoyed reading was the notes to the financial statements. It helped make a lot of segments of the financial statements make sense, and it was my first time really getting to see notes attached to a financial statement. Overall, this case required a lot of work and digging through the very lengthy 10-K to find everything, but the

process of doing so has given me a better understanding of researching a company which I know will be very useful. Attached below is the answers for the questions provided about IP.

1. International Paper (IP) is a manufacturer of paper products. As a company, IP is a global paper and packaging company with primary markets and manufacturing operations in North America, Europe, Latin America, North Africa, India and Russia. Substantially all of our businesses have experienced, and are likely to continue to experience, cycles relating to available industry capacity and general economic conditions. Their headquarters is in Memphis, Tennessee. When looking at Sales Volume by Product on their 10-K, we saw that Industrial Packaging (especially corrugated packaging, containerboard, and recycling) had the highest sales volume by product for IP. IP also reported sales of global cellulose fibers, printing pipers. December 31 is fiscal year end

1. IP's auditors are Deloitte & Touche LLP, located in Memphis, TN.
2. The accounts on the balance sheet are described in the order in which they appeared on the balance sheet and are as follows:

### **Assets**

**Cash and Temporary Investments** - Cash is the standard medium of exchange and the basis of measurement in accounting and costing items. IP's Temporary investments are defined as having an original maturity of three months or less and are treated as cash equivalents and are stated at cost, which approximates market value.

**Accounts and Notes Receivable** - Receivables are financial assets that are claims held against customers and others for money, goods, or services. Customers often owe a company amounts for goods bought or services rendered. For IP, this could mean paper products bought on credit that the company is waiting to receive cash for. Notes Receivable are supported by a promissory note, which is a written promise to pay a specific sum of money at a certain date in the future. These notes will earn interest.

**Contract Assets** - A contract asset is an entity's right to payment for goods and services already transferred to a customer if that right to payment is conditional on something other than the passage of time. Generally, contract assets and contract liabilities are based on past performance.

**Inventories** - Asset items that IP holds for sale in their normal course of business. It also includes the goods that will be used in the production of goods to be sold. For IP, Inventories are valued at the lower of cost or market value and include all costs directly associated with manufacturing products: materials, labor and manufacturing overhead. In the United States, the costs of raw materials and finished pulp and paper products, are generally determined using the last-in, first-out method. Other inventories are valued using the first-in, first-out or average cost methods.

**Assets held for sale** - Held for sale assets are long-lived assets for which a company has a concrete plan to dispose of the asset by sale. They are normally valued at the lower of carrying value or fair value and no depreciation is charged on them.

**Other Current Assets** - Other current assets (OCA) is a category of things of value that a company owns, benefits from, or uses to generate income that can be converted into cash within one business cycle.

**Plants Property and Equipment** - Property, plant, and equipment (PP&E) account, also known as tangible fixed assets, represents the non-current, physical, illiquid assets that are expected to generate long-term economic benefits for a firm including land, buildings, and machinery. Plants, properties and equipment are stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation. Expenditures for betterments are capitalized, whereas normal repairs and maintenance are expensed as incurred. The units-of-production method of depreciation is used for pulp and paper mills, and the straight-line method is used for other plants and equipment.



**Forestlands** - Land owned by the company which has forests on it, which is where raw materials for the company come from

**Investments** - Includes investments in securities such as bonds, common stock, or long-term notes. Also includes investments in tangible fixed assets not currently used in operations, such as land held for speculation. Investments set aside in special funds such as sinking funds, pension funds, or plant expansion funds. Lastly, investments often include non consolidated subsidiaries or affiliated companies. A lot of these investments do not fall under the temporary assets category but could still be readily marketable.

**Financial Assets of Special Purpose entities** - A special purpose entity is a legally separate business that absorbs risk for a corporation. IP had several actions that were considered a part of special purpose entities. One example from the notes of 10-K was Timber installment notes that were used as collateral for borrowings from third party lenders. This as well as other special purpose entities IP engaged in was shown in the balance sheet. Assets and liabilities are recorded in regards to the transactions of these actions.

**Goodwill** - Goodwill is an intangible asset that is defined as the excess purchase price of a company over the fair values of their identifiable net assets (assets less liabilities, or equity). According to this definition, goodwill may only arise when from the purchase of one company by another.

**Deferred Charges and other assets** - A deferred charge is a long-term prepaid expense that is carried as an asset on a balance sheet until used/consumed. Deferred charges often stem from a business making payments for goods and services it has not yet received, such as prepaid insurance premiums or rent. In IP's Balance Sheet deferred income tax assets and liabilities are

recorded in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet under the captions “Deferred charges and other assets” and “Deferred income taxes”.

### **Liabilities**

**Notes payable and current maturities of long-term debt** - money borrowed by the company that is due at a specific date that falls within a year from the current date. This money is borrowed with a stated Interest rate.

**Accounts payable** - Money owed to another entity for services or products that IP has already received.

**Accrued payroll and benefits** - This liability represents money that has already been earned by IP’s employees since their last payment distribution. This account will clear to a zero balance once employees receive their paychecks and are no longer owed for the work that they have performed.

**Liabilities held for sale** - Non-current assets and **liabilities** are classified as **held for sale** if it is highly probable that they will be realized through **sale** rather than continued use. These assets or disposal groups are recognized at the lower of their carrying amounts or fair value’s less costs to sell.

**Other accrued liabilities** - Accrued liabilities are liabilities that reflect expenses that have not yet been paid or logged under accounts payable during an accounting period; in other words, a company's obligation to pay for goods and services that have been provided for which invoices have not yet been received. Any accrued current liabilities not already represented in the “Accrued payroll and benefits” account will be recorded here.

### **Long Term Debt**

**Nonrecourse Financial Liabilities of Special Purpose Entities** - Non-recourse debt is a type of loan secured by collateral, which is usually property. If the borrower defaults, the issuer can seize the collateral but cannot seek out the borrower for any further compensation, even if the collateral does not cover the full value of the defaulted amount.

**Deferred Income Taxes** - Deferred income tax is a liability recorded on a balance sheet resulting from a difference in income recognition between tax laws and the company's accounting methods. For this reason, the company's payable income tax may not equate to the total tax expense reported.

**Pension Benefit Obligation** - A pension benefit obligation is the present value of retirement benefits earned by employees. The amount of this obligation is determined by an actuary, based on a number of assumptions, including the following: Estimated future pay raises. Estimated employee mortality rates. Estimated interest costs.

**Postretirement and Postemployment Benefit Obligation** - Post-retirement benefits are for people who have served or worked to achieve a lifetime benefit for themselves. This is one form of retirement pension that is paid to the employees in their retirement years. These include things like medical plans and life insurance.

**Other Liabilities** - This account includes any long term debt incurred by IP that is not recorded in any of the other long term debt accounts. IP's 10-K included what was the composition of the other liabilities account.

**Commitments and Contingent Liabilities (Note 13)** - Contingent liability is a potential liability that may occur, depending on the outcome of an uncertain future event. A contingent liability is recorded in the accounting records if the contingency is likely and the amount of the liability can be reasonably estimated.

## **Equity**

**Common stock (\$1 par value, 2018 - 448.9 shares & 2017 - 448.9 shares)** - Common stock is the type of ownership interest (expressed in "shares") that exists at every U.S. corporation. The balance in Common Stock will be reported in the corporation's balance sheet as a component of paid-in capital, a section within stockholders' equity.

**Paid-in capital** - Paid-in capital is the amount of capital "paid in" by investors during common or preferred stock issuances, including the par value of the shares themselves plus amounts in excess of par value.

**Retained earnings** - Retained earnings (RE) is the amount of net income left over for the business after it has paid out dividends to its shareholders. Often this profit is paid out to shareholders, but it can also be reinvested back into the company for growth purposes. The money not paid to shareholders counts as retained earnings.

**Accumulated other comprehensive loss** - Accumulated other comprehensive income (OCI) includes unrealized gains and losses reported in the equity section of the balance sheet that are netted below-retained earnings. Other comprehensive income can consist of gains and losses on certain types of investments, pension plans, and hedging transactions. This section of the balance sheet is where the comprehensive losses would be recorded.

**Non-controlling interests** - A non-controlling interest (NCI), also known as minority interest, is an ownership position wherein a shareholder owns less than 50% of the outstanding shares and has no control over decisions. Non-controlling interests are measured at the net asset value of entities and do not account for potential voting rights.

4.) **Industrial Packaging** - IP's customer base, source of revenues, and global revenue earning are described in the tables and graphics below. These were gathered from both the company's 10-K report and IP's official Company Overview:

<b>Net Sales</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>15,900</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>15,077</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>14,226</b>
<b>Operating Profit (Loss)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,093</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,547</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,741</b>
Brazil Packaging impairment		122		—		—
EMEA Packaging optimization		47		—		—
Litigation settlement recovery		(5)		—		—
Abandoned property removal		20		14		—
Kleen Products anti-trust settlement		—		354		—
Holmen mill bargain purchase gain		—		(6)		—
Brazil Packaging wood supply accelerated amortization		—		10		—
Turkey mill closure		—		—		7
Asia Packaging restructuring and impairment		—		—		70
<b>Operating Profit Before Special Items</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,277</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,919</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,818</b>

#### **EMEA Industrial Packaging**

<i>In millions</i>		<b>2018</b>		<b>2017</b>		<b>2016</b>
<b>Net Sales</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,355</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,334</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,227</b>
<b>Operating Profit (Loss)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(120)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>15</b>
EMEA Packaging optimization		47		—		—
Holmen mill net bargain purchase gain		—		(6)		—
Turkey mill closure		—		—		7
<b>Operating Profit Before Special Items</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(73)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>22</b>

#### **Brazilian Industrial Packaging**

<i>In millions</i>		<b>2018</b>		<b>2017</b>		<b>2016</b>
<b>Net Sales</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>232</b>
<b>Operating Profit (Loss)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(151)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(35)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(43)</b>
Brazil Packaging impairment		122		—		—
Brazil Packaging wood supply accelerated amortization		—		10		—
<b>Operating Profit Before Special Items</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(29)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(25)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(43)</b>

#### **North American Industrial Packaging**

<i>In millions</i>		<b>2018</b>		<b>2017</b>		<b>2016</b>
<b>Net Sales (a)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>14,187</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>13,329</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>12,450</b>
<b>Operating Profit (Loss)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,292</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,504</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,757</b>
Litigation settlement recovery		(5)		—		—
Abandoned property removal		20		14		—
Kleen Products anti-trust settlement		—		354		—
<b>Operating Profit Before Special Items</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,307</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,872</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,757</b>

## Printing Paper

### North American Printing Papers

<i>In millions</i>	2018	2017	2016
<b>Net Sales</b>	\$ 1,956	\$ 1,833	\$ 1,890
<b>Operating Profit (Loss)</b>	\$ 160	\$ 132	\$ 236
Riverdale mill conversion	9	—	—
Abandoned property removal	1	2	—
<b>Operating Profit Before Special Items</b>	\$ 170	\$ 134	\$ 236

<i>In millions</i>	2018	2017	2016
Industrial Packaging	\$ 1,061	\$ 836	\$ 832
Global Cellulose Fibers	183	188	174
Printing Papers	303	235	215
Subtotal	1,547	1,259	1,221
Corporate and other	25	21	20
<b>Capital Spending</b>	\$ 1,572	\$ 1,280	\$ 1,241

### Indian Papers

<i>In millions</i>	2018	2017	2016
<b>Net Sales</b>	\$ 202	\$ 189	\$ 167
<b>Operating Profit (Loss)</b>	\$ 17	\$ (5)	\$ (11)

### Brazilian Papers

<i>In millions</i>	2018	2017	2016
<b>Net Sales (a)</b>	\$ 978	\$ 972	\$ 897
<b>Operating Profit (Loss)</b>	\$ 227	\$ 194	\$ 173

## Industrial Packaging 69% of total revenue



We create packaging products that protect and promote goods, enable worldwide commerce and keep consumers safe. We meet our customers' most challenging sales, shipping, storage and display requirements with sustainable solutions. In addition to containerboard mills, box plants and converting operations across the globe, our North American recycling business recovers, processes and sells seven million tons of corrugated packaging and paper annually.

Additionally, we provide high-quality coated paperboard for consumer packaging throughout Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA). Customers rely on us for pharmaceutical, healthcare, cosmetics, food and beverage packaging solutions.

### SEGMENTS

- eCommerce
- Protein
- Fruit and vegetable
- Distribution
- Processed food and beverage
- Durable/non-durable goods

### REVENUE BY REGION

88% North America  
9% EMEA  
2% EMEA Coated Paperboard  
1% Brazil

## Global Cellulose Fibers 12% of total revenue



We create pulp for diapers, tissue and other personal hygiene products that promote health and wellness. Cellulose fiber is a sustainable, renewable raw material in hundreds of products people use every day, including baby diapers, feminine care, adult incontinence and other non-woven products. Our innovative specialty pulps are used as a sustainable alternative across a variety of industries such as textiles, filtration, construction material, paints and coatings and more.

### SEGMENTS

- Absorbent hygiene products
- Paper
- Tissue
- Textiles
- Filtration
- Paints and coatings

### REVENUE BY REGION\*

94% North America  
6% EMEA

\*Although the majority of revenue for this business is generated in North America, we export about 80 percent of this volume, primarily to Asia and EMEA with a smaller portion going to Latin America.

## Papers 19% of total revenue



We create papers that facilitate education and communication. As one of the world's largest manufacturers of uncoated freesheet, we produce a variety of papers for business and home use. Customers rely on our signature brands including Accent®, Opaque, Ballet®, by George®, Chamex®, Hammermill®, POL™, PRO-DESIGN®, REY® and SvetoCopy® for a wide range of printing and converting applications.

### END USE

- Printer and copy paper
- Commercial printing
- Book publishing
- Advertising
- Envelopes
- Bills and statements
- Filing
- Specialty packaging
- Labeling

### REVENUE BY REGION

45% North America  
29% EMEA  
22% Brazil  
4% India

5) Most suppliers to IP seem to be chemical manufacturers, which is due to the fact that IP manufacturers most of their own paper products to then later sell.

Electricity Contracts and Foreign exchange contracts are both included in COGS while Depreciation and Amortization are excluded.

6) Selling and Administrative expenses - these are the expenses associated with structuring the company and guiding it as well as selling the product. These expenses help generate revenue by creating a way for the manufactured products to be sold.

Depreciation, Amortization, and cost of timber harvested - This is all depreciation and amortization expenses, which are not part of operating expense, and cost of timber harvested, which is the cost to harvest the timber from the land IP owns. Because IP does not sell its timber but instead uses it, the cost of timber harvested is separate from cost of goods sold. It helps generate revenue by providing raw materials to IP.

Distribution Expenses - These are the expenses attributable to distributing IP's products to its consumers. These expenses help generate revenue by getting the product to where it needs to go in order to be sold.

7) In 2016 the reason for a lower Net earnings can be blamed on a small increase in many individual revenue and expense accounts.



In 2017 the Net earnings are \$2,144 (Mill), with net sales of 21,743 (Mill). There largest expense was COGS at 14,802 (Mil).

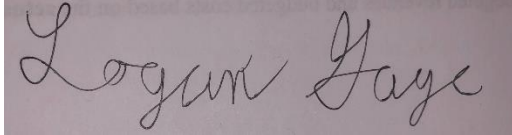
In 2018 the Net earnings are 2,017 (Mill), with sales of 23,306 (Mill). There largest expense was COGS at 15,555 (Mill)

8. The accounts that result in the difference from net income to operating cash flow are as follows: Depreciation, Amortization, and Cost of Timber Harvested, Deferred Income Tax Provision, Restructuring and other charges, Pension plan contributions, Periodic Pension expense, Net gain on transfer of North American Consumer Packaging business, Net bargain purchase gain on acquisition of business, Net losses on sales and impairments of businesses, Equity method dividends received, Equity losses net, Other, Changes in accounts and notes receivable, Changes in contract assets, Changes in inventories, Changes in accounts payable and accrued liabilities, Changes in interest payable, and Changes in Other.

9) The following accounts contain estimates or the use of judgement: Impairment of Long-lived Assets and Goodwill, Allowance for Doubtful Accounts, Contingent Liabilities, Pension benefit obligations, Inventory. It can be assumed that these accounts are predicted, but could not (and almost certainly will not) be perfectly accurate.

Honor Code: "On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given, received, nor witnessed any unauthorized help on this case study.

Signature:

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "Logan Gage". The ink is dark and the background is a light, slightly textured surface.

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Political Discussion Case

Reaction to Thomas Sowell Interview Case Study

Case 5

Logan Gage

Dr. V. Dickinson

University of Mississippi

Nov. 20, 2019

Logan Gage

Dr. Dickinson

ACCY 420

Nov. 20, 2019

### A Political Discussion and an Economist's Analysis

In this case, we started off class by answering two questions. Both questions were more political than financial but had ties to accounting in a certain way. The first question was asking how we would react to the electoral college being abolished, while the second question asked how we thought the economy would be if America provided all citizens with universal basic income payments (where citizens would be getting a check from the government each month). We spent a few minutes writing how we felt about the questions with no time to think beforehand, just writing our initial thoughts. Once we were done writing, we spent some time discussing our opinions to the class. No one was forced to share their opinions, but there was still discussion on how people felt differently about both questions. The class was able to benefit by hearing different sides to the arguments both questions presented, and it was helpful to better understand what other students in the class think about certain political topics.

It was interesting being thrown into questions I did not think at all I would be writing about in class that day. Without even being able to research the topics, I wrote away at what my thoughts were. Since I did no research, I knew there would be parts of what I had written down that could be contradicted, and most likely for good reasons. I like to stay in tune with current events and politics, but am no master of the subject. I realized as other students started sharing their opinions who I agreed or disagreed with. One observation I found interesting was that the students in the class that I have been friends with for a few years had ideas that were similar to

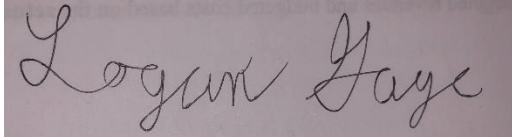
mine, while students in the class I did not know as well seemed to view things differently. I do not think either side was right or wrong the issues, I just found it interesting how your opinions can be molded to the type of people you interact with. As a class, it was a good discussion, and while I do not expect this style of lecture too often in the future, it was interesting to be engaged in a political discussion in an accounting class.

The interview we watched of Thomas Sowell was interesting. Having started as a Marxist who progressed to having a whole new mindset is powerful to see. It is hard to find someone to go through such a dramatic change in beliefs through their life, and Sowell clearly had learned much through his life to have the opinions he has today. Sowell was asked to give his opinion on several aspects of United States government such as Affirmative Action, minimum wage, and the income of single-parent household families. Sowell discussed the problems institutions can have over citizens, where their control can have people look at them for all the answers. Programs such as Affirmative Action harm everyone in different ways according to Sowell. His ideas such as this as well as others in the video gave me the impression that he would prefer the power of the government to be weakened so that Americans would have to rely on themselves to be successful and not have something to look forward to. Obviously he believes this to a certain extent, but he has still had trouble even wanting to listen to America's leaders, saying he turns off his television when he has seen the President for the past 8 years. There is a huge emphasis on facts that Sowell gives throughout his interview. It seemed that he would believe no idea or plan if it was not backed up by perfect facts that correlated perfectly with the scenario provided. This is not a bad thing, yet it just seemed like he was willing to discredit ideas if he had never seen facts supporting them. Overall it was interesting to hear Sowell speak. I have not listened to many economists such as him and I could see myself looking for his opinion on a lot of issues in

the future. He has very bright ideas that are supported by facts, and I am sure that I could trust a lot of what he believes. He seemed to be a very realistic person who had an opinion because he had the data to support him, not just a belief or a hope in a policy or idea to be beneficial.

Honor Code: "On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given, received, nor witnessed any unauthorized help on this case study.

Signature:

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Reg FD Case

Learning and Applying Reg FD

Case 6

Logan Gage

Dr. V. Dickinson

University of Mississippi

Jan. 29, 2020

Logan Gage

Dr. Dickinson

ACCY 420

Jan. 29, 2020

### The Importance of Understanding Regulation Fair Disclosure

In this case we had to learn about the Regulation Fair Disclosure (Reg FD) rules passed by the SEC in 2000. Our assignment involved reading several articles explaining what the rule was and how we could apply our knowledge to a scenario where our client's CEO had done something on his Facebook page. We then had to read about a real scenario where Elon Musk had been considered to have violated Reg FD when he tweeted about wanting to make his company private at \$420 per share. Through all of these readings I was able to understand what this rule meant, and I am glad to now understand it because I know it will be something I must know in my future classes as well as in my accounting career. It was especially interesting to hear about how many individual investors wanting rules such as Reg FD led to the creation of the rules we have today. It is nice to hear that something that was wanted by individuals (and perhaps not large companies) was able to be passed. I am not personally aware of the difficulty of being an individual investor, but I have to believe that it is good for the accounting profession as well as the market as a whole for rules that people want to be put in effect. Throughout the body of this study, I explained what Reg FD is, how it affects investors, and why it is important to know about. I am glad I was able to learn about this because I know this will be important for my future career.

Regulation Fair Disclosure is a rule passed by the SEC in the year 2000 to prevent public companies from being selective in disclosing information to professionals, analysts, and

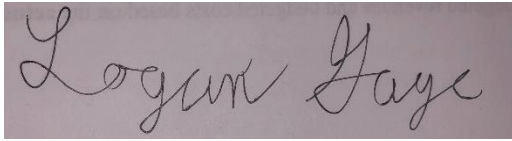
shareholders. The effect that Reg FD would have on our client means that we would have to follow all the rules the SEC states about proper financial reporting. Some major actions to keep in mind would be that whenever calls are made to major stockholders or analysts, the general public must also be informed of the information discussed through a company issued press release.

The articles provided for this case explained the importance of Reg FD by using the story of Alex Grubman. Grubman served as an important analyst in the telecommunication industry, but has dealt with many legal problems regarding the ways he had an unfair advantage in learning about companies. Jessica Sommar of the New York Post wrote an article explaining how Grubman was able to sit in on board meetings for large companies, giving him an unfair advantage to other analysts by directly seeing and understanding financial information other analysts would not have had access to. Stories of the ones such as Grubman's is what prompted the SEC to create fairer disclosure rules like Reg FD. Investors wanted there to be a fair playing field in the world of financial analysis, where a stay at home investor could have access to the same information a multi-million dollar analyst could receive. Alyce Lomax of The Motley Fool wrote about the positive effect of Reg FD by explaining how many individual investors urged the SEC to enforcing rules like Reg FD to make the investing world more fair. As a result, companies now post what was discussed in stakeholder/analyst conference calls in a press release form available to the public. This prevents people like Grubman from having an unfair advantage when predicting the market. However, as noted in The Motley Fool by David Smith, companies can still avoid or complicate this process by releasing guidance far in advance to the quarterly conference call. This information is still available to the public, but it would be important for clients to know that there can be other information released at other points in time.

My client posting performance metrics on Facebook would make me concerned that he violated Reg FD. While what the client is doing in sharing information that is accessible to everyone, it might be difficult for it to be equally as accessible to investors who might simply not know to look at the CEO's personal Facebook page. These metrics would need to be reported through the proper channels allowed by the SEC. If our client's CEO could post this information on his personal Facebook what could prevent him from posting metrics on a personal blog that would be difficult for analysts to find if they did not know that the page already existed. There could be certain rules that make the Facebook post ok, because something posted there would bound to eventually be known by the general public, but the delay that could be caused by this post would make me believe this is in violation of Reg FD rules.

After reading about Elon Musk's tweet and the chaos it seemed to have caused among investors, I would stand by my advice to our client that their Facebook post would be violating parts of Reg FD. Elon's tweet caused investors panic, and this new insight from the CEO made them change their opinion of valuing the company. Our client CEO doing something similar on Facebook could cause investors to react in a similar way. Our client is doing something slightly different in that he's just reporting facts and not a plan for the future, but the lack of validity or official release of the information would certainly be confusing. This is why I think our client would be in violation of Reg FD in this scenario.

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Journal of Accountancy Case

CPA's Managing their stress

Case 7

Logan Gage

Dr. V. Dickinson

University of Mississippi

Feb. 12, 2020

Logan Gage

Dr. Dickinson

ACCY 420

Feb. 12, 2020

### Learning about stress managing at the office

For this case assignment I chose to read an article for the Journal of Accountancy called “4 ways CPAs can manage their stress”. It was written by a CPA named Amy Vetter, who had performed research on the benefits of wise ways to spend your time inside and outside of the work environment to avoid major moments of stress. The journal begins by discussing that having a sound mind and body alone can greatly benefit you in your career. Vetter uses this main idea to discuss the different suggestions she has for CPAs who might be struggling with brutally long or hard weeks when the job turns busy.

The first suggestion is to try to stay active in your workplace environment. It is suggested that it is obviously great if you are able to find time outside of work to engage in physical activity at the gym or in your community, but there can also be ways to stay active in the workplace. One idea Vetter gives is that instead of having a meeting with a co-worker in an office, perhaps see if the two of you could have the discussion while going for a walk. Improving your physique can have you starting to look and feel better physically in short time, and keeping your body at ease and in good condition will help when busy times arrive. I could see this helping me in my work, as I already enjoy staying active, and have seen the benefits firsthand.

The second suggestion by Vetter is to develop a good sleeping routine. Dragging your way through a tough week at an accounting firm already sounds extremely difficult, and I know it will be important to stay on top of getting quality sleep before every work day. I know this be a

more difficult task for me as I enjoy staying up late, but I believe that the work of my job will cause me to get tired earlier in the night for me to get good sleep.

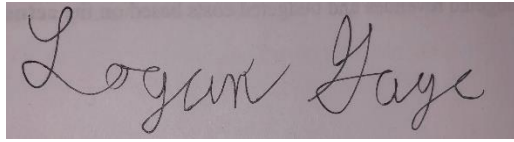
The third suggestion is to control your diet when going through a long work night. I understand that it can be beneficial to make sure you are eating well when going through a lot physically and when being stressed, and the foods you are eating are also important to make sure your body does not tire and burn out while you up doing a difficult task or working a long work day. Vetter explains the idea that eating things that will help you in the long-term is much better than something with lots of sugar or caffeine that could only help you for a brief period of time.

The last suggestion is to have time set aside just to relax and calm yourself down. Something that could be called a “mental breather” can often be very affective at making sure your mind is all in one place and not making mistakes when you are working on an account or return and it is vital for your job to be performed with no error. I understand that it is important to not lose focus or begin procrastinating, but something as simple as taking 10 minutes to ensure that your mind is not in a million places at once can be very effective at keeping you focused on the task at hand.

These are the points made by Vetter’s journal, and I know following these steps will be beneficial to me in my career as an accountant, as well as a professional. What good can you do for yourself and your team around you if you are working at a much lesser potential because of stress, exhaustion, or distraction? Finding ways to manage the hurdles that you might not think about is important in any job, and this journal did a good job of explaining major major stresses, and how to handle them.



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## Works Cited

Vetter, Amy, CPA/CITP, CGMA. **Journal of Accountancy**; New York Vol. 229, Iss. 1, (Jan 2020): 22-25.

## Monopoly Meets Blockchain

### Case 8

Logan Gage

Dr. V. Dickinson

University of Mississippi

Mar. 4, 2020

Logan Gage

Dr. Dickinson

ACCY 420

Mar. 4, 2020

### Managing my business in a huge game of Monopoly

I loved to play Monopoly growing up. I have three brothers and we would often play Monopoly or other board games during the weekend or after school when we were little. What made these games great was that we all understood our version of the rules, and there was little to no confusion when moves happened. This caused games to be fast, easy, and void of any arguing or confusion. For this case, we brought the idea of blockchain to Monopoly, where business owners were having to record and report every transaction to the cloud, through a runner that helped relay our transactions to a greater cloud storage system. At first, understanding what all was going on was a mess. There were four different states, runners, managers, auditors, cloud members, and big mama/big papa all having to learn their job at the same time. It was honestly stressing me out because I had no idea what my state was doing was the same as a different state, or if anyone was recording their transactions correctly at all. We were all having to buy properties that existed in the four states, and having to understand the payment process of rent was confusing at first. For instance, our state went several turns until realizing what the number sticky note on our property really meant, and to my knowledge there might have been some rent charges go to the wrong person because we had to better understand the rules as we went. After some time getting to understand the rules, I felt that our team was able to efficiently move around the board, buy properties, pay rent, and record any cash transactions with ease. I better understand the checks and balances that go into cloud/blockchain

transactions, where everything is reported into a piece of technology to keep everyone (especially auditors) on the same page. The real world cannot be like a home monopoly game where everyone understands each other. In order for there to not be total confusion, differentiations in rules, and potential cheating/cooking of numbers, there is a lot to gain by having all information stored the same way.

The article that I read to learn about blockchain was “Blockchain Technology Explained” by Bisade Asolo. As previously discussed, blockchain technology keeps a ledger of any transaction that occurs in a company. Transactions can be grouped into blocks, where blocks can be combined chronologically to form a chain. The blocks are linked together so that all transactions of a company are recorded in a safe manner, with all data being linked and difficult to tamper with. Nodes also exist that manage the data and values in a company’s transactions. These nodes can validate and relay transactions that occur across the network of a company, and proof all of the transactions to see that they are legitimate. This process is called a “proof-of-work” process that is popular in many blockchain programs.

Blockchains can be effective in many different industries. Cryptocurrency is the most common place where blockchain is used, but supply chain companies, digital identity companies, and even healthcare companies can use blockchain methods to have transactions publicly recorded and safely stored online and linked together. In this case we saw how blockchain can store information in the economy, where business owners are linking together purchases, expenses, and revenues so that all business managers can see in a cloud-like system how each company is doing, and how they all got to the level of earnings they currently have. I did not get to see entirely how the process worked, as I only played the role of a business manager, but by the end of class I was understanding how it all came together similar to how a blockchain links

every transaction. It was obviously much more difficult in class, with information having to be transferred manually by several different role-players in the class just to record a tiny rent payment, but once we got rolling I finally began to enjoy the process. I am unfamiliar with how much blockchain technology can slow down or speed up the economy today, but I do imagine that if data is all publicly recorded and safely linked, there is a huge potential for data mining to occur to help companies find trends in their spending or earnings habits that could make them more successful.

Attached below is the information regarding my personal transactions, and how I recorded my expenses and revenues.

Transactions		
Beginning:		
Contribute cash to start business:		1500
Turn 1:		
Income tax expense	200	
Cash		200
(Paid Income Tax)		
Turn 2:		
Rent Exp- Player ID 28	5	
Rent Exp- Big Mama/Papa	5	
Cash		10
(Paid rent expense for landing on owned property)		
Turn 3:		
Rent Exp- Player ID 36	12.50	
Rent Exp- Big Mama/Papa	12.50	
Cash		25
(Paid rent expense for landing on owned property)		
Turn 4:		
Property Inventory- Atlantic Avenue	260	
Cash		260

(Purchased Atlantic Avenue)

Turn 5:

Rent Exp- Player ID 45	12	
Rent Exp- Big Mama/Papa	12	
Cash		24

(Paid rent expense for landing on owned property)

Turn 6:

Rent Exp- Player ID 28	35	
Cash		35

(Paid rent expense for landing on owned property)

Turn 7:

Rent Exp- Player ID 27	3	
Rent Exp- Big Mama/Papa	3	
Cash		6

(Paid rent expense for landing on owned property)

Cash	200	
Pass Go Revenue		200

(Earned 200 for passing Go)

Digital Cash at end of Game: 1140

Properties Owned: Atlantic Avenue 0 Houses, 0 Hotels

Logan Gage

Income Statement

For the First Period of Operations

Revenues:	200
Expenses:	(560)
Net Income (Loss):	(360)

## Logan Gage

## Statement of Retained Earnings

## For the First Period of Operations

Beginning Retained Earnings:	0
Net Income:	(360)
Dividends:	0
Ending Retained Earnings:	(360)



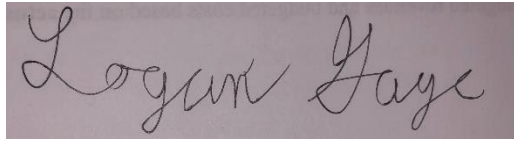
Logan Gage

## Balance Sheet

March 4, 2020

Cash:	1140
Properties:	260
Buildings:	0
Total Assets:	1400
Liabilities:	0
Equity:	
Stock:	1760
Ending Retained Earnings:	(360)
Total Liabilities plus Equity:	1400

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Logan Gage". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

Interview Case

Interviewing William Gage

Case 9

Logan Gage

Dr. V. Dickinson

University of Mississippi

Apr. 1, 2020

Logan Gage

Dr. Dickinson

ACCY 420

Apr. 1, 2020

### Interviewing my father, attorney William Gage

For this case I chose to interview my father, William Gage. With everything happening in the world and in order for our family to stay as safe as possible, I am still in Oxford with my younger brother who is also a student at the University of Mississippi while our parents are down in Jackson, Mississippi. We thought about heading back home, but so much of our belongings are in Oxford that we thought life and school would be easier if my brother and I stayed at our house that our family has in Oxford for us to do work and enjoy each other's company during quarantine. I called my father to conduct this interview, and we were able to catch up like we always do, but I was able to ask more questions specifically about his career, and how he got to where he is today. This conversation is not too foreign for us, as we have already had talks about how I think my career should head, as I am starting to get into the last few years of my undergraduate studying. I was able to talk to my dad more about his childhood and life early in his career due to this interview, and it was interesting to hear some of the stories he had to tell about the similarities and differences to his Ole Miss experience compared to mine. I have a very good relationship with my parents as well as my extended family, so it was good to be able to spend some time this week to just sit down and for a while talk about things that were not stressful, such as the way my father was able to enjoy Ole Miss. One thing he said that particularly fascinated me was when he talked about how special of a place Ole Miss is. He said even back in the early 1980's him and his classmates recognized that Oxford was a special place,

and the experience they were getting to have was something that they all knew they would deeply miss once they left. In the same way many students are upset about not getting to be around campus right now, it made sense that my father considered his years in college to be some of the best of his life. This makes me even more excited about the day when we can all come back to campus and cherish our last year as undergraduates, and I am hoping that the situation in the world does not get to a point where fall of 2020 could be affected by anything.

My father William Gage grew up in Port Gibson, Mississippi, a small town in rural southwest MS. He described his childhood as an "Andy Griffith style" childhood, where everyone in town knew one another. This warm family atmosphere caused his friends to just be whoever was his age in town, and he spent lots of time outdoors with neighbors hunting, fishing, swimming, or playing golf. His house did not have a TV until 1979, and even when it did it only had 4 channels so preferred to be outdoors. He went to school at Chamberlain Hunt Military Academy, one of the few private schools in the area.

One of the interesting things about Chamberlain Hunt was that half of the students were boarding students. This meant each first day of the year of school was especially exciting because you had no idea who all would be in your grade that year, and it was something that my dad enjoyed.

After graduating, William went to Ole Miss and majored in accounting. He was not sure if this would be what he wanted to do for a living, but he did so on the advice of his older brother and his father. William's father (my grandfather) ran a bank in Port Gibson so my dad knew understanding accounting and banking would be helpful for him. By the time he was a junior he decided he would go to law school, being driven by the wisdom a law degree gives you as well

as the excitement of being in Oxford for three more years. William loved his time at Ole Miss, and met my mother there during his time in law school, while she was getting her MBA.

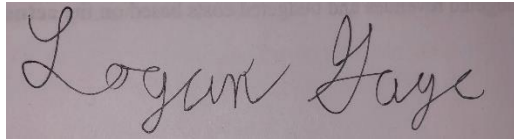
Although William has spent mostly all of his professional career at the law firm Butler Snow, we were able to talk about what all he learned from the jobs he had growing up. Two jobs in particular: The summer he worked as a maintenance worker at a summer camp, and then as field helper at a soybean farm, were the two hardest things he has ever done. The amount of respect for people in the farming/maintenance industry went up tremendously through both of those experiences, and I was able to hear all about many different grueling tasks he had to do while working on the farm.

At Butler Snow, William is a pharmaceutical and medical device defense lawyer, and has enjoyed seeing the firm he works for grow from around 60 attorneys to over 300 since he started working there in 1990. As he comes up on finishing his 30th year at the firm, he loves what he does but does acknowledge the amount of work and dedication his career has taken out of his life. He has done the analysis before, and has figured out that he spent a combined 10 out of his 30 years working from a hotel room in some city outside of Mississippi, due to the fact that so much of his work requires him to travel. This means his life outside of work consists of him trying to stay involved with his most favorite hobbies. William loves going to Ole Miss sporting events, with his other two favorite hobbies being exercising and going metal detecting in towns or areas where Civil War battles occurred or where armies could have had camps. He has enjoyed being able to see his four sons grow up over the years, even when he is not at home every day. I personally always understood the need for him to be gone sometimes, so the travel was never a major problem, but definitely an aspect of his work that does not apply to most people.

William is very proud of his family today. His two siblings both raised good families and their children are good cousins to me, and our family has always gotten along well and we all love each other today. Raising four sons is not easy, and despite the four of us all being so different from each other, the family has always gotten along great. One of the best vacations we got to go on was when me, my younger brother, and our parents went to Disney World when I was just starting high school. Our main way to enjoy things as a family together is to go to Ole Miss baseball games together.

Looking back on his life, William wishes that he had known more about the time value of money and that he started saving earlier in his life. His savings are not bad at all, but now that he has been working for 30 years he is amazed by how much savings can grow when you look at it all from a long term perspective. We talked about what else in his life he would prefer to be different, and we talked about how he wished his father could have lived for 10 more years. His father passed away months before he got married at the age of 70. He was a heavy smoker and William always wonders how different life would be if his father had lived longer to get to know his wife and maybe even his kids. Obviously you can look back in life and question a lot of things, but I think it is most important to only learn from the past and make the most out of the situation you are in. William has taught me to be optimistic, positive, and striving to achieve great things, so it was great to get to interview him in a more formal manner and talk about things that we do not normally discuss. I was able to learn from William my whole life, but this interview has helped me more understand and write out how it has impacted me, and I enjoyed getting to do this assignment.

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Student Interview Case

Interviewing Nicholas Fenske

Case 10

Logan Gage

Dr. V. Dickinson

University of Mississippi

Apr. 20, 2020

Logan Gage

Dr. Dickinson

ACCY 420

Apr. 20, 2020

Interview with Nicholas, another Jackson MS intern

For this case we submitted the city and potential firms we were interviewing with for our accounting internship so that we could be assigned an Ole Miss student one year older than us that had recently finished an internship of their own to interview. I was assigned Nicholas Fenske, a senior who had recently finished his internship with Harper Rains and Knight in Ridgeland, Mississippi. This case was beneficial because I was able to hear firsthand what an internship experience was like in the city I will be interning in. I was able to get some insight that I know will help me make a future decision on whether or not I choose to stay in the public accounting profession, and being able to talk to Nicholas about the ways Ole Miss' internship programs is helpful for its students made me reflect on my years as a student but also clearly look ahead as to what my future could look like.

Nicholas is from Hernando, MS and went to Hernando High School. He started his time at Ole Miss undeclared, but enjoyed his accounting classes enough to declare it as his major. Upon finishing this semester, he plans on getting his master's in accounting at Ole Miss as well. Both of our paths to internships had some similarities, with Nicholas first attending Meet the Firms as a sophomore with hopes of connecting with a small firm that was not too far away from home that would interest him. After applying to firms in Memphis, he also became aware of Harper Rains and Knight in Ridgeland, and accepted an internship in October of his senior year.

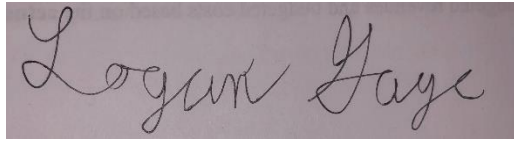
Nicholas enjoyed his internship experience. One aspect of his internship that I found interesting was that he got to do work with both the tax and audit department, and it was left up to him to decide which of the two he preferred after getting real experience with work. This was one of the many things about his smaller firm that he enjoyed, that I am hoping to also experience in my internship. His small office culture allowed him to meet almost everyone in the office during his two months, and be in an environment where nothing or no one is unrecognizable. He got to leave the office to go out and meet with clients in a healthy way where he did not feel like he was being “thrown out blind”, but still put in scenarios where he could gain a lot of experience. Nicholas stayed at the house of another Jackson accountant, because after discussing the city and its suburbs, we did agree that finding an ideal place to sublease for only eight-ten weeks could be difficult in a place like Jackson, MS. This made me realize something I had never thought about, and that was how I myself would find living arrangements during my internship. There will be 5 other interns at the firm I am going to, and I need to figure out if any of them would maybe like to live together, or if I should just try to stay with family during the time.

One of the main clients Nicholas got to spend time with was a pipe supplier company, and his impact felt real when he was able to notice parts of their accounting that needed to be fixed. We did not go in detail about what it was exactly that Nicholas worked on, but it was interesting and inspiring to hear that I too could be helping businesses in MS fix errors in their reporting as soon as next year (I just hope they are not too difficult to fix if I find something). I am excited about the opportunity to be able to travel across the area and see what accounting is like for small to medium size businesses in the state, and talking about this with Nicholas was able to help me think of what I too could be doing.

At the end of his internship Nicholas was given an offer by Harper and Knight which he says was really exciting. He is hoping to finish his Master's, pass the CPA, and be back in Ridgeland soon to be able to begin his career. Nicholas talked about how with a firm like Harper and Knight, they were very considerate and caring about his future though, and even understood if he decided to talk to other firms in the future, but were still giving him that offer for when he finishes his Master's program. This to me proves even more the importance of the Ole Miss internship program. You get a real idea if you are making the right career choice, and Nicholas and I were able to discuss how the firm can feel different than a classroom. You get to see what is really important.

All in all, I enjoyed the opportunity to get to interview Nicholas. It is a shame that the internship panel could not happen this year with the semester moving online, but this was about as good as it could have been because I was able to have a long conversation and ask plenty of questions with someone who took a path similar to what I am taking. While some students could spend a lot of time talking about how they loved being in a big firm in a big city, I did not need that information, and being able to ask questions about a small firm culture, and how you can still learn a lot from your experience in a small firm working directly with partners and senior managers can be very beneficial during your 8-10 weeks at work. I am sure that Nicholas will continue to be successful if he continues to work with Harper and Knight, and I am appreciative of all of the advice and suggestions he was able to give to me in our call.

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Financial Crisis Case

Another Crisis Begins, Will It Be Just Like Last Time?

Case 11

Logan Gage

Dr. V. Dickinson

University of Mississippi

Apr. 27, 2020

Logan Gage

Dr. Dickinson

ACCY 420

Apr. 27, 2020

### Where Will Our Money Go During Our Current Crisis?

For this case we were assigned to watch a video about capitalism and the ways it can be corrupt, watch a documentary on the way banks unfairly handled the 2008 housing crisis, and then read several articles discussing the current state of the economy and reasons for the economy to have suffered during the 2008 recession. There was a lot to learn through all of these resources, and it was very interesting to see the different ways Wall Street bankers used their power to control the way billions of dollars that were intended to help struggling Americans end up in their own pockets. As we face another crisis today due to COVID-19, we will see if there are any similarities to that crisis, and if the rich only get richer through the efforts Washington makes to try to help struggling Americans. The articles explaining some specifics of the 2008 crisis show how little care or investigation that some of the highest paid people in America refused to do. It seems ludicrous that these Wall Street bankers make more money than almost anyone in the country but time after time show little intelligence in their own field. The documentary was a sad look into just how manipulative big banks can be when trying to navigate their companies they put themselves in. These issues they faced were all entirely due to their lack of oversight, regulation, and a general care for the financial security of their clients. As I was learning more and more about the strategies banks were using to make themselves richer and putting the world in even bigger risk, it reminded me why I have no interest in pursuing a career in politics or in a high control environment such as Wall Street. The battle of ethics against your

personal gain seems to be present in so many big Wall Street bankers who are honestly depicted as evil in the documentary. I hope that I will never be living a life where I am that selfish about my personal gains and will instead be doing work to help those around me as I help myself and my family.

The information the documentary gave about America's large investment banks are more interesting now than ever as we face yet another financial crisis. While the bank's reasoning for certain decisions was never explained in the documentary, there were obvious issues pointed out in the film that showed how money meant to bailout banks was going directly to highly paid employees. Any future plans the country makes during the financial crisis to keep banks alive would make sense and I would support a scenario where we do not have major companies failing, however there must be an increased accountability into where money supporting companies is going. These bankers' leaders were still bringing in millions of dollars during some of the toughest days in our recent financial history, and as unemployment currently begins to skyrocket across the country, reading about millionaires continuing to make millions (maybe even more) would be sickening. I had always had little faith in the ethical side of big banking, but I do understand its importance in helping the economy grow quickly. In situations such as the corona-virus pandemic, I would prefer to see the economy obviously return to normal in a very fast manner so that life can be returned to normal. I do however an emphasis on safety needs to be taken in the practices and ethics of big banks in the future so that the millions of Americans struggling in unemployment will actually have ways to make it through this crisis. I have trouble understanding why individuals in a big bank need to earn hundreds of millions of dollars during huge economic turmoil, and I sadly do not know what is stopping them from manipulating the rules of the game to be in that situation again.



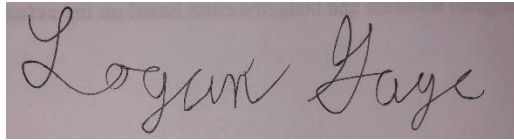
There are so many lessons to learn from the 2008 crisis, and I fear that none of those lessons will be used. While I do not foresee big banks or credit agencies failing because this crisis was not caused by failing banks, I see the biggest issue being the allocation of funds that should be intended for struggling Americans going to the wrong people. We have already seen issues with the government providing stimulus checks. These checks are a brand new system, so I understand partially why they might not be perfect. Millions of Americans are experiencing delays in receiving their stimulus payments however, and who knows where the next issues will strike. Once a vaccine is created, I pray and hope that the vaccine is delivered at a reasonable price, and not in an attempt for states, the country, or for a pharmacy to profit off the already sick and struggling citizens. We have seen countless issues of vital medicine being overpriced by pharmaceutical companies, but surely a vaccine that would be taken by a large percentage of Americans would be more reasonably priced if not maybe even free.

Ignoring the issues in the current pandemic, reading about the 2008 crisis changes my opinions on how I will one day invest my savings in the future. I have always remembered financial advice from my father, who has said the one thing to be skeptical of is when someone above you offers something that seems “too good to be true”. In the 2008 crisis, it seemed that all of the AAA rated investments that were constantly failing and built from mortgages that had no chance of being successful was the truth that needed to be discovered. I will have a good understanding of investments upon graduation, and I believe it will be up to myself to research the ways a banker might be investing my money to make sure my future and family is financially safe.

I am naturally a conservative person, and hate taking risks with my money, and this documentary even furthers those ideas. I hope to have a role in my family as someone that can be

knowledgeable about the investment market so that I and those around me can wisely invest in ways that can be proven to be successful, instead of just investing in Wall Street's newest most favorite trick that actually hurts those who are already struggling the most. I am excited to learn even more about investing as I continue taking more classes and am exposed to investments in my internship and career, and am more curious than ever to see how the investment market handles this current financial crisis.

Honor Code: "On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given, received, nor witnessed any unauthorized help on this case study"

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "Logan Gage". The ink is dark and the background is a light, textured surface.